# State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 18, 2011 San Miguel County Building, Norwood

The meeting was called to order by Vice- Chair Karen Scopel at 8:40 AM.

Members in attendance: Steve Anthony, Sheila Grother, Ken Harper, Don Hijar, Jay Jutten, Phyllis Lake, Randy Malcom, Scott Nissen, Terri Schulz, Karen Scopel

Members excused: Ben Duke, Jimmy Dunn, Susan Johnson, Fred Midcap, and Susan Panjabi

Staff present: Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) representative: Steve Ryder, State Weed Coordinator

- 1. Introductions and opening comments:
  - a. Karen welcomed everyone and roundtable introductions followed.
- 2. Review agenda-call for additions/corrections:
  - a. Terri requested that the Weed Fund be added to the agenda after the field trip discussion.
- 3. Review minutes of the January 27, 2011 meeting.
  - a. There were 3 changes to the draft minutes.
  - b. Jay moved to approve the minutes with the changes, Terri seconded, seeing no discussion motion went to vote, all in favor, motion carries.
- 4. Follow-up on field trip:
  - a. The field trip the previous day consisted of:
    - Sulfur cinquefoil (Sheila, USFS)
    - Purple loosestrife & Yellow starthistle-two separate locations (Laurie Mingen, Montrose County)
    - Russian knapweed plots (Scott)

The Committee thanked Sheila for her efforts in putting together a very impressive field trip!

- b. Field-trip discussion:
  - Purple loosestrife portion of the field trip. Considerable discussion centered around the problem of water in the canyon due to the flood irrigation on lands above. Talks centered on water management and how this was contributing to creating more purple loosestrife habitat. Sheila mentioned how this was a controversial issue with the landowners. Don had concerns about the non-selectivity of the purple loosestrife treatment and also about wetlands that were

being created unintentionally. Jay asked if there was water on the site year round. Sheila said that they were due to springs and leaky ponds. Don and Terri mentioned various federal and state programs that could assist with water management. Phyllis suggested the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) from the Natural Resources could be a possibility. Sheila mentioned that the Natural Resources Conservation Service has a sub-office located in Norwood. Karen wrapped up the discussion by stating that the tours can be helpful by adding other perspectives to the situation.

#### 5. Weed Fund

- Steve Ryder reviewed the process. The reviewers were Eric Lane, Cindy Lair, Susan Johnson, Terri Schultz and Sheila Grother. By combining the State Private Forestry Funds with the Weed Fund, all \$400,000 worth of requests were funded. All but two requests dealt with List A species to some extent. Steve stated that by prioritizing List A species this resulted in better projects and the Department was satisfied in how the funds were distributed. Sixteen counties, four Conservation Districts, and two Resource Conservation & Development Councils received funding.
- 6. Proposed 2011 changes to the Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act-8 CCR-1206-2. Steve Ryder led the discussion.
  - The Rule changes will be submitted June 1.
  - There was discussion on the "distance from water" language for 7 List B species (4.72, 4.7.13, 4.7.16, 4.7.17, 4.7.21, 4.7.22 and 4.7.23.) The current language states: All populations in this state that are within the area from the center of any intermittent or perennial stream or river to 15 feet beyond the ordinary high water mark on both banks must be eliminated prior to seed development in 2012.
  - Steve Ryder suggested that there may be changes that would redirect the focus on downstream impacts and end the "15 feet" rule.
  - Terri suggested the language could be changed to a distance to be negotiated by the CDA and the county when developing management plans. Terri added that the goal of the language should be to keep seeds from spreading from containment areas into eradication zones. Terri made a motion to that effect, Sheila seconded and the motion passed.
  - Sheila asked if the Watch List species were included in the proposed changes and if new species may be added periodically. Steve Ryder replied that Watch List species are included in the proposed changes, but with no enforcement provisions. He stated that the time to add Watch List species is during the rulemaking process.
  - Randy asked how the Watch List would be publicized. Steve Ryder said that there may be a blog developed on CDA's website.
  - The Agriculture Commission meets in the last part of July; the new regulations would be in effect on September 30, 2011.

- 7. Yellow sweetclover letter response summary.
  - Terri reported that the feedback has been positive.
  - Randy Malcolm presented the other side of the issue, countering that the sweetclovers
    have been valuable plants in agronomic settings. Don said that there are 39 signups
    statewide for the Conservation Reserve Program; yellow sweetclover is cheaper than
    scarlet globemallow. Pheasants Forever promotes sweetclover. He said you may go
    ten years and not see it in an area. He added that it may be a cover and nurse crop.

# 8. Yellow nutsedge/Chufa discussion

- Steve Anthony started the discussion by passing out some material on yellow nutsedge
  including the CDA Fact Sheet. He expressed the concern that it is still being promoted
  and utilized by many organizations in conjunction with wildlife habitat improvement
  projects.
- Scott Nissen stated that globally it is one of the most impactive weeds.
   Don mentioned that Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Wild Turkey Federation and the Colorado Division of Wildlife have promoted yellow nutsedge in the past.
- Steve A. reminded the Committee that at the November 2010 meeting we recommended to downlist yellow nutsedge from a List B to a List C species. In 2008, CDA attempted to develop a statewide management plan for yellow nutsedge, however there wasn't sufficient data submitted to complete the plan.
- Don made the motion to change the earlier, November 2010 List C recommendation and keep yellow nutsedge as a List B. Ken Harper seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- Steve A. said that he thought Terri's sweetclover letter was very effective and that it may be beneficial to draft a similar letter regarding yellow nutsedge. Terri volunteered to draft another letter regarding yellow nutsedge; Sheila suggested that the CDA Fact Sheet could be included in the mailing.

# 9. Myrtle Spurge Plant Assessment Form

• Scott Nissen went through the PAF. He explained that Holly Postmus did the PAF initially a few years ago. The updated PAF was done by Cameron Douglas. Scott suggested that a letter from the Committee to the green industry about the potential problems of all introduced spurges would be a good idea.

#### 10. List B Management Plans

- Steve Ryder listed the remaining List B species that need management:
   Bouncing bet, Canada thistle, Common tansy, Corn chamomile, Mayweed chamomile,
   Quackgrass, Russian-olive, Wild caraway, Myrtle spurge.
- Steve asked for input on species for 2012 management plans.
   Terri suggested: Myrtle spurge, Common tansy, Wild caraway, and mayweed and corn chamomile. If a List B staffer is brought on, she suggested that we delete mayweed and

corn chamomile, and add Russian olive and Canada thistle. There was a consensus on this from the Committee.

### 11. Plant Select Program

- The Plant Select Program is a partnership between the Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University's Horticulture Department. From their website: The purpose of Plant Select® is to seek out, identify and distribute the very best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region to the high plains.
- Karen reviewed the past history between Plant Select and the Colorado Weed Management Association. CWMA's Invasive Ornamental Committee has expressed concerns about the plant selection process since 2002. Karen read to the group, a 2004 letter from CWMA President Matt Custer to the Plant Select Program. The letter expressed a desire for CWMA's inclusion in the process, and suggested that there should be a substantial testing program. The letter also mentioned concerns that a designated trade name of a newly introduced species may imply a local geographical tie-in that does not reflect the plant's true nativity.
- Steve Ryder commented that CDA should look into an assessment process that we could apply to evaluate the invasiveness and other impacts. The CDA Markets Division could apply these criteria to their grant programs.
- Scott Nissen said that the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service based out of Fort
  Collins has useful guidelines that could be helpful in the plant selection process and that
  they should contact Plant Select. This suggestion should be an item for follow-up for
  further action. Scott also mentioned that any plant that reproduces by creeping
  rhizomes shouldn't be allowed in the country. Scott is also concerned about the
  increased popularity of Russian Sage.
- Terri suggested that all of Plant Select's plants should be placed on the Watch List if they
  won't cooperate with the Committee's suggestions for following plant selection
  guidelines and criteria.
- Karen said that the Committee should review PAF's for all proposed Plant Select introductions.

#### 12. Plant Assessment Forms for 2011-12

- Don asked if having a PAF on every plant would help in developing the management plan for that species. Terri replied that it wouldn't necessarily. Sheila added that it may be a moot point to have PAF's for List B species. Karen reminded the Committee that Garlic Mustard was mentioned as a PAF candidate but it has been tabled until now.
- Steve Ryder has had calls on: Scotch broom (PAF complete), Hoary Alyssum, and Garlic Mustard
- Scott Nissen said that CSU has received funding from CDA to do PAF's for 10 more plants in the next few months.
- Candidates for PAF consideration will be sent out to the Committee to prioritize.

#### 13. Subcommittee Meetings & Reports

- Karen stated that we may need to rethink some of the sub-committee's projects and determine if the initial charge for the projects/subcommittees was still relevant and that there should be further discussion at the meeting in August.
- Terri added that the subcommittee meetings and subsequent reports should occur earlier in the Committee's Agenda.

# 14. Meeting schedule for 2011

- August 17/18 Quarterly meeting/Spruce Gulch Field Trip (dates & location tentative)
- October 26 CDA Lakewood 10AM-2:30PM

#### 15. Committee Members and term expirations

• Steve Ryder provided information on terms that will expire after the August quarterly meeting:

Sheila Grother and Terri Schultz-first term has been completed and are eligible for reappointment.

Scott Nissen, Steve Anthony, Jimmy Dunn, and Jay Jutten all have completed their second terms and are term limited.

Susan Johnson has completed the remainder of the Federal Land Management term originally occupied by Tom McClure.

#### 16. Announcements

- Scott Nissen: Gateway Plots Field Tour in August sponsored by Tamarisk Coalition and Dow AgroSciences
- Karen and the Committee thanked Sheila for an outstanding field trip and for hosting the meeting.

# 17. Adjourn

• The meeting was adjourned by Vice-chair Karen Scopel at 1:20pm